

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 07641 102232Z

ACTION IO-06

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4512

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, AORG, WFP, FAO, UN

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD PROGRAM PERSONNEL

REF: (A) STATE 104341 (B) ROME 5267 (C) STATE 67325 (D) ROME
5193

1. UNFORTUNEATELY REFTEL (A) ON APPROACH TO FAO DIRECTOR
GENERAL SAOUMA ON VOGEL APPOINTMENT TO WORLD FOOD PROGRAM (WFP)
ARRIVED AFTER SAOUMA'S DEPARTURE TO ASIA FOR THREE WEEKS. IT
IS THEREFORE IMPOSSIBLE FOR TOME TO PIN SAOUMA DOWN ON POINTS
SET FORTH IN PARA 7 A-D.

2. SINCE DISCUSSION OF VOGEL APPOINTMENT AT COMMITTEE ON
FOOD AID POLICIES /(CFA) MAY 16-27 NECESSITATES RAPID SAOUMA
AGREE-MENT, OTHER WAYS OF APPROACHING SAOUMA ARE REQUIRED.

3. WE SUGGEST WE APPROACH SAOUMA'S CHEF DE CABINET DE MEREDIEU
WITH FOLLOWING SIMPLE MESSAGE TO BE TRANSMITTED BY HIM TO SAOUMA
WITH WHOM HE IS IN DAILY TELEPHONE CONTACT. BEGIN QUOTE: USG
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HAS SATISFACTORILY CONCLUDED DISCUSSIONS WITH VOGEL
AND CANADIANS ALONG LINES DISCUSSED WITH SAOUMA BY
MAYNES ON MARCH 22. WE ARE NOW PREPARED TO WITHDRAW
OUR BID FOR WFP DEPUTY EXECUTIVE POSTAND HOPE THE
APPOINTMENT OF MR. VOGEL CAN BE SWIFTLY MOVED FORWARD
AS DISCUSSED WITH SAOUMA. WE FURTHER HOPE THIS SUBJECT
CAN BE RAISED AT UPCOMING CFA AS MANY DELEGATES WISH

TO SEE CFA PUT UNDER CAPABLE, PERMANENT LEADERSHIP
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT IT CAN MOVE FORWARD
VIGOROUSLY IN ITS WORK. WE ARE SORRY TO MISS YOU IN
ROME TO DISCUSS THIS PERSONALLY AND WOULD APPRECIATE
YOUR VIEWS ON TIMING AND ON WHETHER MATTER CAN BE
RAISED IN CFA. END QUOTE.

4. WE PREFER NOT TO GET INTO DETAILS OF REFTEL (A)
PARA 7 A-D WITH DE MEREDIEU OR TO SEEM TO THREATEN TO
RAISE MATTER AT CFA.

5. WE NOTE THAT USUAL PRACTICE IN CFA IS FOR FAO
DIRECTOR GENERAL TO CALL A MEETING OF HEADS OF DELE-
GATIONS TO CFA IN WHICH DIRECTOR GENERAL INFORMS DELE-
GATES OF HIS AND SECRETARY GENERAL'S CHOICE FOR WFP
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. SINCE DIRECTOR GENERAL WILL NOT BE
IN ROME DURING CFA AND HE IS NOT IN HABIT OF DELEGATING
SUCH ACTIVITIES, IT IS DIFFICULT FOR US NOW WITH SEVEN
DAYS' NOTICE TO INSIST THIS BE RAISED IN CFA. THIS
BELIEF IS REINFORCED BY SAOUMA'S DESIRE EXPRESSED
EARLIER, REF TEL (B) THAT HE DOES NOT INTEND TO MOVE ON
THIS MATTER UNTIL AFTER THE FAO COUNCIL IN JUNE 1977.
FINALLY DIRECTOR GENERAL HAS REPEATEDLY ASKED USG IF
OUR POSITION ON VOGEL HAS BEEN CLARIFIED. THE LAST
TIME BEING AGAIN TO DR. PHILLIPS LATE LAST WEEK. GARDNER

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